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Korea, Republic of

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

ROKG's Press Release on Temporarily Closure of

Livestock Markets

2001

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (MAF) put out a press release on March 20 that it was temporarily closing down all 128 active livestock markets for 24 days. This raised speculation as to whether there was another Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Korea. However, meetings with various government officials revealed that it was only a preventive measure and not an outbreak. Over 75 percent of all livestock are moved through other channels, such as agricultural cooperatives, integrated livestock processing centers (LPC), assemblers, etc., which remain open. A full translation of the MAF press release is attached.

PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 20, 2001
Provided by: Livestock Marketing Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
Director: Shil-Joong Kim
Deputy Dir.: Sang Doo Bae
Tel: 500-1917
Subject: Temporarily Closure of Livestock Markets as a Preventive Measure to Prevent Foot and Mouth Disease (March 24 - April 16).

- C As a communicable disease control measure against foot and mouth diseases (FMD), nationwide livestock markets will be closed temporarily (for 24 days from March 24 to April 16).
- C According to the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (MAF) on March 20, 2001, with the anniversary of the date when FMD out broke in Korea one year ago;
- i) We can enhance the effectiveness of the communicable disease control measures by minimizing the movement of livestock among livestock markets and the movement from one region to another region by temporarily closing the nationwide livestock markets.
 - ii) During this period, it will conduct a simultaneous disinfection of all of the livestock markets throughout the nation. Thereby, maintaining a sanitary environment in the livestock market. The temporarily nationwide closure of the livestock market during the period March 24 through April 16 is the period when Korea had an outbreak in 2000.
- C The MAF measure took place under a situation where MAF is putting all efforts in controlling communicable diseases at the border as well as domestically during the "Special Communicable Diseases Control Period for FMD" which is during the period February 24 through April 30. MAF stated that this measure was in preparation against any rare possibility and was based on recommendations made by the city and provincial governments as well as the Korea Hanwoo (native beef cattle) Association, etc., even though there may be a slight inconvenience for livestock farmers that are trying to sell their animals.
- C On the other hand, in order to reduce the inconvenience caused by the temporarily closure of livestock markets among farmers in the transaction of livestock,
- We will have the agricultural cooperatives and branch offices of the hanwoo association under the jurisdiction of the local autonomy governments carry out education to the livestock farmers during the suspension period and also enlarge the volume of livestock traded through the agricultural cooperative channel.
 - It will also take measures to relieve some of the inconvenience in livestock transactions by providing information or arrangements with assemblers, etc. after receiving requests from farmers that wish to sell their livestock.